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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,440	11/29/2001	Vincent Bahl	BT-003	3859

29956 7590 03/25/2004

TIMOTHY P. O'HAGAN
8710 KILKENNY CT
FORT MYERS, FL 33912

EXAMINER

PANNALA, SATHYANARAYA R.

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2177

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/996,440

Applicant(s)

BAHL ET AL.

Examiner

Sathyanarayan Pannala

Art Unit

2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. An application filed on 11/29/2001 with 15 claims. In this Office Action, claims 1-15 are pending.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 120

2. Applicant is claiming the priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 as this application is in continuation-in-part of US Patent application S. No. 09/632,696 filed on 8/4/2000. So, the examiner honors the priority as per statutory law.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: Typographical error leading to claim 11 dependent on itself, which is not a valid claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office Action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application

by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 1-10, 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (US Patent 6,058,380).

6. As per independent claim 1, Anderson discloses a system allows a bank having electronic data interchange (EDI) capabilities to electronically process vendor invoice information on behalf of a customer who do not have EDI capabilities. Anderson teaches the claimed step of "a network circuit for communicating invoice management data with the plurality of client systems" EDI invoices are received by an EDI translator from the vendor via a data communications network in the form of an electronic file (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 41-44). Anderson further teaches the claimed step of "a session management engine comprising: means for establishing a secure session with at least a first vendor client system and with at least one payer client system through the network circuit" the vendor communicates via path (14) to the vendor bank. Pre-authorized debits (PADs) are received by an automated clearinghouse (ACH) translator from the vendor bank via a communication path in the form of an electronic file (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 64-67). Anderson further teaches the claimed step of "means for receiving a first vendor invoice transaction compliant with a first vendor client transaction definition from

the first vendor client system that includes identification of the payer client associated with the payer client system and amounts due from the payer client" the vendor communicates to vendors bank in the form of electronic file. Upon receipt of ACH PPD file an ACH translator converts PAD into a flat file, which is communicated to invoice collector. The invoice collector extracts the PAD information from the flat file and stores in the intermediary database (Fig. 1, col. 3, line 64 to col. 4, line 16). Anderson further teaches the claimed step of "a translation engine comprising: means for translating the first vendor invoice transaction to a normalized invoice transaction" vendor communicates to vendor bank are ACH translator translates from the vendor bank into an electronic file (Fig. 64, col.3, lines 64-67). Finally, Anderson further teaches the claimed step of "means for translating the normalized invoice transaction to an export invoice transaction compliant with a payer client transaction definition" the ACH translator converts the PAD file into a flat file (Fig. 1, lines 9-16).

7. As per dependent claim 2, Anderson teaches the claimed step of "a database and wherein the session management engine further comprises means for storing the normalized invoice transaction in the database" invoice collector extracts the PAD information from the flat file and stores the information in the intermediary database (Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 14-16).

8. As per dependent claim 3, The automated invoice management system of "a data mapping dictionary that associates an element in the normalized transaction to at least a portion of an element in the vendor first client transaction definition and at least a portion of an element in the payer client transaction definition" an invoice analyzer

retrieves each invoice from intermediary database and evaluates (Fig. 1, col. 6, lines 2-11).

9. As per dependent claim 4, Anderson teaches the claimed step of “the data mapping dictionary further includes validation rules; and the translation engine further comprises means for validating the normalized transaction by determining whether each element in the normalized transaction complies with the validation rules” see table 3 for rules in the criteria column (Fig. 1, Table. 3, col. 6, lines 12-67).

10. As per dependent claim 5, Anderson teaches the claimed step of “the data dictionary further includes import mapping rules comprising: rules that provide for associating at least one of the normalized element to a particular portion of an element in the vendor client transaction definition, rules that provide for truncating a portion of an element in the vendor client transaction definition to comply with transaction format rules of a corresponding normalized field, and rules that provide for adding default characters to an element in the vendor client transaction definition to comply with transaction format rules of a corresponding normalized field” an invoice reviewer retrieves each invoice that has been processed by invoice analyzer but not reviewed (Fig. 1, col. 8, line 48 to col. 9, line 12).

11. As per dependent claim 6, Anderson teaches the claimed step of “the data dictionary further includes export mapping rules comprising: rules that provide for associating at least one of the normalized elements to a particular portion of an element in the payer client transaction definition, rules that provide for truncating a portion of at least one of the normalized element to comply with transaction format rules of a

corresponding element in the payer client transaction definition, and rules that provide for adding default characters to at least one of the normalized elements to comply with transaction format rules of a corresponding element in the payer client transaction definition" payment generator retrieves those invoices that are to paid form intermediary database via the internal bus of the mainframe (Fig. 1, col. 10, lines 7-23).

12. As per dependent claim 7, Anderson teaches the claimed step of "the session management engine further comprises: means for receiving a payer remittance transaction compliant with a payer client remittance transaction definition from the payer client system that includes remittance data associated with the export invoice transaction, means for translating the import remittance transaction to a normalized remittance transaction and means for translating the normalized remittance transaction to an export remittance transaction compliant with a first client remittance transaction definition" EDI translator can either generate one payment per invoice or generate a payment for more than one invoice (Fig. 1, col. 10, lines 24-48).

13. As per dependent claim 8, Anderson teaches the claimed step of "the translation engine further comprises: means for translating a second vendor invoice transaction, that complies with a second vendor client transaction definition that is different than the first vendor client transaction definition and that identifies the payer client and amounts due from the payer client, to a second normalized invoice transaction, and means for translating the second normalized invoice transaction to a second export invoice transaction compliant with the payer transaction definition, and wherein the session management engine further comprises: means for receiving the second vendor invoice

transaction from a second vendor client system, and means for storing the second normalized invoice transaction in the database, means for providing both the export invoice transaction and the second export invoice transaction to the payer client in a single file through the network circuit" the account specific file is communicated to an intermediary communications interface via intermediary internal network (Fig. 1, col. 11, lines 43-63).

14. As per independent claim 9, Anderson discloses a system allows a bank having electronic data interchange (EDI) capabilities to electronically process vendor invoice information on behalf of a customer who do not have EDI capabilities. Anderson teaches the claimed step of "establishing a secure session with at least a first vendor client system and with at least one payer client system through a network circuit" the vendor communicates via path (14) to the vendor bank. Pre-authorized debits (PADs) are received by an automated clearinghouse (ACH) translator from the vendor bank via a communication path in the form of an electronic file (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 64-67).

Anderson further teaches the claimed step of "receiving a first vendor invoice transaction compliant with a first vendor client transaction definition from a first vendor system that includes identification of a payer client associated with the payer client system and amounts due from the payer" the vendor communicates via path (14) to the vendor bank. Pre-authorized debits (PADs) are received by an automated clearinghouse (ACH) translator from the vendor bank via a communication path in the form of an electronic file (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 64-67). Anderson further teaches the claimed step of "translating the first vendor invoice transaction to a normalized invoice

transaction" vendor communicates to vendor bank are ACH translator translates from the vendor bank into an electronic file (Fig. 64, col.3, lines 64-67). Finally, Anderson further teaches the claimed step of "translating the normalized invoice transaction to an export invoice transaction compliant with a payer client transaction definition that is different than the vendor client transaction definition" the ACH translator converts the PAD file into a flat file (Fig. 1, lines 9-16).

15. As per dependent claim 10, Anderson teaches the claimed step of "storing the normalized invoice transaction in a database" invoice collector extracts the PAD information from the flat file and stores the information in the intermediary database (Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 14-16).

16. As per dependent 12, Anderson teaches the claimed step of "the step of translating the vendor invoice transaction to a normalized invoice transaction comprises at least one of the following steps: associating an element in the normalized transaction to a particular portion of an element in the vendor client transaction definition, truncating a portion of an element in the vendor client transaction definition to comply with transaction format rules of a corresponding normalized element, adding default characters to an element in the vendor client transaction definition to comply with transaction format rules of a corresponding normalized field" an invoice reviewer retrieves each invoice that has been processed by invoice analyzer but not reviewed (Fig. 1, col. 8, line 48 to col. 9, line 12).

17. As per dependent claim 13, Anderson teaches the claimed "the step of translating the normalized invoice transaction to an export invoice transaction compliant

with a payer client transaction definition comprises at least one of the following steps: associating an element in the normalized transaction to a particular portion of an element in the payer client transaction definition, truncating a portion of an element in the normalized transaction to comply with transaction format rules of a corresponding element in the payer client transaction definition, adding default characters to an element in the normalized transaction to comply with transaction format rules of a corresponding element in the payer client transaction definition" payment generator retrieves those invoices that are to paid form intermediary database via the internal bus of the mainframe (Fig. 1, col. 10, lines 7-23).

18. The method of providing automated invoice management services of claim 10, further comprising: receiving a payer remittance transaction compliant with a payer client remittance transaction definition from the payer client system that includes remittance data associated with the export invoice transaction, translating the payer remittance transaction to a normalized remittance transaction, and translating the normalized remittance transaction to an export remittance transaction compliant with a first client remittance transaction definition that is different than the payer client remittance transaction definition" EDI translator can either generate one payment per invoice or generate a payment for more than one invoice (Fig. 1, col. 10, lines 24-48).

19. As per dependent claim 10, "receiving a second vendor invoice transaction from a second vendor client system that complies with a second vendor client transaction definition that is different than the first vendor client transaction definition and that identifies the payer client and amounts due from the payer client, translating the second

vendor invoice transaction to a second normalized invoice transaction, storing the second normalized invoice transaction in the database, translating the second normalized invoice transaction to a second export invoice transaction compliant with the payer transaction definition, providing both the export invoice transaction and the second export invoice transaction to the payer client in a single file through the network circuit" the account specific file is communicated to an intermediary communications interface via intermediary internal network (Fig. 1, col. 11, lines 43-63).

Conclusion

20. The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

21. If a reference indicated, as being mailed on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Lisa Craney whose telephone number is (703)305-9601 for faster service


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sathyanarayan Pannala whose telephone number is (703) 305-3390. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SRP
Sathyanarayan Pannala
Examiner
Art Unit 2177

srp
March 20, 2004


GRETA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER